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MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Antimony, Quarterly

ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 1996

Prices for most forms of antimony declined markedly during the second quarter of 1996. The New York dealer price for antimony metal, published by *Platt's Metals Week*, was $1.80 to $1.95 per pound at the start of the quarter and finished the quarter at $1.25 to $1.50 per pound.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started the quarter at $2.30 to $2.45 per pound and finished the quarter at $1.75 to $2.00 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide ore, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started the quarter at $28.00 to $32.00 per metric ton unit and finished the quarter at $23.00 to $24.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) began the quarter at $30.00 to $32.00 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at $25.00 to $26.00 per metric ton unit.

In South Africa, major antimony producer Consolidated Murchison reported it was considering a three phase expansion which would increase its antimony concentrate production capacity from 9,000 tons to 12,000 tons annually by 1999. Also, if market conditions are favorable, consideration will be given to installing a furnace at the plant to make antimony metal. Presently, the entire output of Murchison's mine is sold to a crude oxide plant in South Africa in which Murchison has a stake *(Mining Journal, June 7, 1996)*.

In Canada, Roycefield Resources announced it was proceeding with the development of a new antimony mine in central Newfoundland, near Gander, which has an anticipated output of 4,500 tons annually of contained antimony. Roycefield expected to begin construction on the mine this summer and then will setup a concentrator mill next to the mine. The mine was expected to be operational by early 1997. The firm has spent about $4 million on the project and expected total eventual outlay could be $17 million *(Metal Bulletin, June 17, 1996)*.

In Japan, an agreement was announced for a new Sino-Japanese joint venture between Meiwa Trading Co., an affiliate of Mitsubishi Corp., Japan and the Hsikwangshan Mining Administration of the provincial government of Hunan, China, which operates China's largest antimony mine, the Hsikwangshan Mine. The agreement calls for Meiwa Trading to provide antimony refining technology and advanced equipment to Hsikwangshan Mining Administration, which in turn, will supply 1,200 tons of antimony yearly to Meiwa starting this summer. The Chinese supply to Meiwa was expected to increase to 3,000 tons yearly within a few years (American Metal Market, March 6, 1996).

Prepared in the Metals Section and the Data Collection and Coordination Section, August 9, 1996.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

		1996	
	1995 p/	First quarter	Second quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter 2/	23,500	5,360 r/	5,990
Secondary 3/	NA	NA	NA
Imports for consumption	36,600	11,500	6,430 4/
Ore and concentrate	4,260	428	169 4/
Metal	16,900	6,230	2,930 4/
Oxide	15,400	4,870	3,330 4/
Exports:	8,560	1,280	787 4/
Metal, alloys and scrap	1,610	171	62 4/
Oxide 5/	6,950	1,100	725 4/
Consumption of primary antimony	14,300	3,270	3,300
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	227.77	191.27 r/	175.61
Stocks end of period 7/	10,700	11,700 r/	11,000

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.
1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.
2/ Mine production is withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Nearly all smelter output is trioxide; output of metal and residues is negligible to very small.
3/ Data under review.
4/ Data for April and May only.
5/ Antimony oxide content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.
6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.
7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES AT END OF PERIOD 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

		1996	
Type of material	1995 p/	First quarter	Second quarter
Metal	2,430	(3/)	3,120
Oxide	4,550	3,970 r/	4,140
Other 4/	3,680	7,740	3,790
Total	10,700	11,700 r/	11,000

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.
1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 95% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1994. Quarterly data includes estimates from companies reporting only on an annual basis.
3/ Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data, included in "Other ."
4/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

		1996	
Class of material consumed	1995 p/	First quarter	Second quarter
Metal	2,910	690	633
Oxide	11,400	2,570 r/	2,660
Other 3/	23	5 r/	6
Total	14,300	3,270 r/	3,300

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.
1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 83% of the total antimony in 1994. Quarterly data include estimates for companies reporting only on an annual basis.
3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1995 p/	1996	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Metal products:			
Antimonial lead	1,780	400	406
Bearing metal and bearings	30	5	1
Other 3/	1,230	322	269
Total metal products	3,040	727	676
Nonmetal products:			
Ceramics and glass	940	240 r/	227
Other 4/	1,190	302 r/	267
Total nonmetal products	2,130	542 r/	494
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	6,170	1,340	1,460
Rubber	252	63	63
Other 5/	334	47 r/	52
Total flame retardant	6,760	1,450	1,570
Total reported	11,900	2,720 r/	2,740
Grand total	14,300	3,270 r/	3,300

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.
1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 83% of the total antimony in 1994. Quarterly data includes estimates from companies reporting only on an annual basis.
3/ Includes ammunition, bearing metal and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe and solder.
4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, and plastics.
5/ Includes adhesives and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1995	1996			
		First quarter	April	May	Jan.-May
Ore and concentrate:					
Bolivia	2,050	--	--	--	--
Canada	481	124	20	--	144
China	1,060	273	90	35	398
Kyrgyzstan	228	--	--	--	--
Other	432	30	--	24	54
Total	4,260	428	110	59	597
Metal:					
Bolivia	255	--	61	20	80
China	12,100	4,350	1,190	687	6,230
Hong Kong	841	562	205	257	1,020
Kyrgyzstan	1,880	573	121	102	797
Mexico	1,630	624	158	20	803
Other	203	117	65	42	224
Total	16,900	6,230	1,800	1,130	9,150
Oxide:					
Belgium	926	169	46	35	250
Bolivia	1,720	632	354	415	1,400
China	5,630	2,250	569	738	3,560
Mexico	3,080	759	281	338	1,380
South Africa	2,640	697	198	198	1,090
Other	1,410	358	52	104	513
Total	15,400	4,870	1,500	1,830	8,200
Grand total	36,600	11,500	3,410	3,020	17,900
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	74	11	1	--	12

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Content of oxide is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.